PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN CITY
WAYNE HYDE

JULY 13, 1978
SERIES 6 - #4

SLOW WALK THROUGH SAN ANTONIO
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

TAPE: CUT ONE -- RIPPLING RIVER CURRENT - EST. 10 SEC. & HOLD UNDER

NARR: THIS IS THE HEART OF THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF THE TENTH LARGEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES. IN SUCH AN AREA YOU WOULD EXPECT TO HEAR THE SOUNDS OF BUSY TRAFFIC. BUT NOT IN THIS PARTICULAR CITY. INSTEAD THERE IS THE PLEASANT, LAZY SOUND OF A RIVER CURRENT WINDING ITS WAY THROUGH THE CITY. IT'S AWAY FROM TRAFFIC. IT'S BEAUTIFUL, SERENE, QUIET -- AND IT S DOWNTOWN IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. THIS IS THE PASEO DEL RIO -- SAN ANTONIO'S WORLD FAMOUS RIVERWALK. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE STOLLED ITS BANKS, AND WE ARE GOING TO DO THAT ON THIS PROGRAM. WE INVITE YOU TO COME WITH US ON THIS SLOW WALK THROUGH SAN ANTONIO.

TAPE: SOUND UP FULL - TOTAL CUT 1:10 - SEGUES TO MUSIC - ESTABLISH 20 SECONDS AND HOLD UNDER

NARR: BY AMERICAN STANDARDS, SAN ANTONIO IS AN OLD CITY. IT GOES BACK SOME TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS, WHEN THE VICEROY OF SPAIN FOUNDED IT IN 1718 AS A MILITARY GARRISON -- THE HALFWAY POST BETWEEN THE EAST TEXAS MISSIONS AND THE SPANISH PRESIDIO OF NORTHERN MEXICO. THERE HAD TO BE A MISSION AT SAN ANTONIO ALSO, AND IT, TOO, WAS BUILT IN 1718 AND CALLED SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO. IT WOULD MANY YEARS LATER BECOME INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AS THE ALMANO -- THE SO-CALLED "CRADLE OF TEXAS LIBERTY" -- AND ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS BUILDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

NARR: (CONT) DURING THE YEARS 1810 TO 1821, MEXICO WOULD STRUGGLE FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN, AND SAN ANTONIO WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THOSE YEARS. SEVERAL MAJOR BATTLES TOOK PLACE IN THE SAN ANTONIO AREA DURING THAT WAR.

NOW THE COMMUNITY WAS GROWING, HELPED CONSIDERABLY BY STEPHEN F. AUSTIN, THE MAN MANY TEXANS CALLED "THE FATHER OF TEXAS" BECAUSE OF HIS COLONIZATION PROGRAM. THIS BROUGHT A WAVE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN IMMIGRATION TO THE SAN ANTONIO AREA, WHICH WAS NOW UNDER MEXICAN RULE.

BUT RESENTMENT WAS GROWING AGAINST GENERAL LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA, THE DICTATOR-PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, AND BY 1835 SAN ANTONIO BECAME THE SCENE OF ARMED REVOLT -- A SITUATION THAT WOULD LEAD, THE NEXT YEAR, TO A FAMILIAR CRY: "REMEMBER THE ALAMO"

AFTER THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR THERE WAS NEW PROSPERITY FOR SAN ANTONIO. IT BECAME THE CENTER OF A HUGE CATTLE EMPIRE BASED ON THE ORIGINAL CATTLE HERDS MAINTAINED BY THE EARLY SPANISH MISSIONS. THE CATTLE TRAILS TO KANSAS FLOURISHED AND TRADING WAS GOOD. INDUSTRY CAME, ALONG WITH THE RAILROADS AND GREAT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. OIL WAS FOUND NEARBY. SAN ANTONIO WAS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE, AND THE CITY GREW QUICKLY -- FROM 12-THOUSAND IN 1879 TO 161-THOUSAND IN 1920. IT WAS THE LARGEST CITY IN TEXAS AT THAT TIME. TODAY IT IS THE TENTH LARGEST IN THE UNITED STATES. UNDER NO LESS THAN NINE FLAGS IN ITS TWO-HUNDRED-AND-SIXTY-PLUS YEARS, SAN ANTONIO HAS GROWN TO MATURITY. FEW CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE SO RICH A HERITAGE.

TAPE: MUSIC UP FILL - CAN BE FADED AT WILL - TOTAL: 3:09

NARR: SAN ANTONIO'S PASEO DEL RIO -- THE FAMOUS RIVERWALK -- IS A TEXAS FAR REMOVED FROM THE MOTION PICTURE VERSIONS OF COWBOYS AND CATTLE TRAILS AND GUNFIGHTS IN THE STREETS. SOME HAVE CALLED IT "THE VENICE OF TEXAS".

TAPE: CUT TWO -- SYNDER

"RIVERWALK HAS BEEN THE MOST FREQUENTLY VISITED ATTRACTION THAT THE CITY HAS NOW -- VISITED BY ABOUT FOUR MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR, FROM OUT OF THE CITY AND RESIDENTS."

NARR: CHARLES SNYDER OF SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SNYDER

"THE RIVERWALK IS A BEAUTIFIED AND DEVELOPED SECTION OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER, WHICH FLOWS FROM SAN ANTONIO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES (240 KILOMETERS) DOWN TO THE GULF OF MEXICO. AND IN THE DOWNTOWN CITY -- THE HEART OF THE CITY -- IT MAKES A RATHER WIDE HORSESHOE BEND ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF LONG. AND THAT BEND HAS BEEN IMPROVED BY ADDING SIDEWALKS AND FOOTBRIDGES, PLANTINGS. IT'S REALLY BECOME QUITE A BOTANICAL GARDEN, (WITH) LIGHTING. AND IN RECENT YEARS, IT'S BEEN DEVELOPED COMMERCIALLY, SO THAT WE NOW HAVE A NUMBER OF VERY FINE RESTAURANTS, NIGHTCLUBS, SHOPS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE RIVER. IT'S A PLEASANT PLACE TO WALK DURING THE DAYTIME OR AT NIGHT."

NARR: YOU EITHER WALK OR TAKE ONE OF THE QUIET LITTLE BOAT-TAXIS, MOVING LEISURELY ALONG THE RIVERWALK'S BANKS, SHADED BY LARGE TREES. FLOWERS GROW THERE ALL YEAR ROUND. THE RIVER RIPPLES ITS LAZY WAY ALONG, BIRDS SING, CRICKETS CHIRP.

HAVE A COOL DRINK AT ONE OF THE MANY SIDEWALK CAFES OR STOP IN AT ONE OF THE EXCELLENT RESTAURANTS. YOU ARE IN ENGLAND, IN A COUNTRY TAVERN. MOVE ON TO ANOTHER PLACE

NARR: (CONT) FOR HORS D'OEUVRES: THIS PLACE IS OLD MEXICO. HAVE YOUR DINNER HALF A BLOCK FURTHER ALONG THE WALK: NOW IT'S PARIS OR ROME OR HEIDELBERG. TOP OFF THE EVENING WITH A NIGHTCAP WHILE YOU LISTEN TO SOME OF THE BEST DIXIELAND MUSIC THAT EVER CAME OFF ANY RIVER, INCLUDING THE MISSISSIPPI. YOU CAN SPEND SEVERAL DAYS ON THE RIVERWALK WITHOUT GETTING ENOUGH OF ITS INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR.

IT'S A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR PEOPLE-WATCHING, TOO -- AND PEOPLE-MEETING. EVERYONE IS FRIENDLY. TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ESPECIALLY SO. THEY WERE RONALD AND JULIE REID (REED), MARRIED ONLY FOUR DAYS EARLIER, AND ON THEIR HONEYMOON IN SAN ANTONIO. OF COURSE, THEY WERE STROLLING THE RIVERWALK.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- RON REID

"WELL, ON THE RIVERWALK, I JUST LIKE THE TWO OF US -- JUST WALKING ALONG, ENJOYING OURSELVES AND ENJOYING EACH OTHER AND HAVING A GOOD TIME. IT'S JUST SOMETHING I'LL REMEMBER AS LONG AS I LIVE. NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S OUR HONEYMOON; JUST BECAUSE THERE'S JUST THE TWO OF US AND WE'VE HAD A GOOD TIME. AND WE'VE REALLY ENJOYED IT." (JULIE REID) "IT JUST SEEMS ROMANTIC TO ME BECAUSE YOU'RE IN NATURE WITH NOBODY EXCEPT JUST THE TWO OF YOU AND THE TREES, AND ITS JUST LIKE YOU'RE OUT IN THE WOODS ALONE. WELL, IT'S JUST PRETTY SCENERY ALL THE WAY AROUND AND IT SEEMS LIKE TO ME IT'S NOT AS COMMERCIALIZED AS A LOT OF THE CITY, AND EVERYTHING TO SEE IS AS LOVELY AS IT WAS -- AS IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN."

NARR: A YOUNG COUPLE ON THEIR HONEYMOON -- AND SPENDING A GOOD PART OF IT ON THE RIVERWALK. THAT SPEAKS WELL FOR THE PLACE. THEY STROLLED OFF, HAND IN HAND, SEEING NO ONE EXCEPT EACH OTHER. WE WENT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. BUT WE HADN'T

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- SNEAK IN MUSIC UNDER

WALKED VERY FAR BEFORE THERE WAS MUSIC TO BE HEARD, COMING FROM A NIGHTCLUB FACING THE RIVERWALK. WE WENT IN, NOTICING THE LARGE POSTER-PHOTOGRAPH AT THE DOOR SHOWING SEVEN YOUNG MUSICIANS, AND JUST BELOW IT THE LEGEND: "APPEARING NIGHTLY -- INNER VISION". APPEARING NIGHTLY, IT SAID, BUT THIS WAS MID-AFTERNOON. "INNER VISION" WAS THE NAME OF THE GROUP -- WELL-KNOWN IN SAN ANTONIO -- AND, AS WE THOUGHT, THE MUSICIANS WERE REHEARSING.

TAPE: UP FULL TO END - ENDS WITH SOME LAUGHTER - TOTAL :54

NARR: GUS ALAZAR, LEADER OF THE GROUP, AND ONE OF ITS THREE SINGERS, TOOK A BREAK AND CAME OVER TO JOIN US, TO TELL US THE BAND HAD BEEN TOGETHER TWO YEARS, THAT THEY WERE ALL FROM SAN ANTONIO, THAT HIS GROUP HAD BEEN PLAYING THIS CLUB FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR. IT'S A BIG CLUB, ULTRA-MODERN, BUILT ON THREE LEVELS, BUT ANYWHERE YOU SIT YOU CAN SEE -- AND CERTAINLY HEAR -- THE BAND. AND DOES "INNER VISION" GET GOOD AUDIENCES?

TAPE: CUT SIX -- ALAZAR

"WELL, THE AUDIENCE IS -- BASICALLY, THROUGHOUT THE WEEK -- IS MOSTLY TOURISTS. BECAUSE THIS IS A TOURIST CLUB. ON THE WEEKENDS IS WHEN WE GET MOST OF OUR 'LOYAL' PEOPLE. YOU KNOW, THE PEOPLE THAT FOLLOW US, THAT COME TO SEE US. THEY COME REGULARLY EVERY WEEKEND. THE WEEKENDS ARE ALWAYS FABULOUS. YOU KNOW, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT AWAY (THE AUDIENCE TURNOUT). FRIDAY, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ARE REALLY GOOD. THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IT'S A DENSE (BIG) CROWD, BUT IT'S VERY UNPREDICTABLE HERE IN THIS CLUB, BECAUSE YOU CAN COME DOWN HERE ON A MONDAY NIGHT, AND IT CAN BE RAINING AND THUNDERING AND -- WHATEVER IT IS -- AND THIS PLACE WILL BE JAM-PACKED WITH PEOPLE."

NARR: THE BEAUTIFUL RIVERWALK IS PROBABLY THE NUMBER ONE ATTRACTION IN SAN ANTONIO. BUT LET US REMEMBER THE AL MO. IT, TOO, IS WHAT PEOPLE COME TO THE CITY TO SEE, AS CHARLES SNYDER TELLS US.

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- SNYDER

"OH, STILL AN IMMENSE ATTRACTION. AND OF COURSE IT IS VERY CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH SAN ANTONIO. IT IS THE CENTER OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA -- AND, AT LEAST UP ON THE SURFACE, AWAY FROM THE RIVERWALK, IT'S THE FOCAL POINT FOR VISITORS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY -- ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. AND THE STATE OF TEXAS."

NARR: AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ALAMO ARE TWO SIGNS. ONE OF THEM READS, IN PART, "GENTLEMEN REMOVE HATS". THE OTHER ONE IS A PLAQUE WHICH READS: "BE SILENT, FRIEND. HERE HEROES DIED TO BLAZE A TRAIL FOR OTHER MEN". AND GENTLEMEN DO REMOVE THEIR HATS HERE, AND PEOPLE ARE QUIET IF NOT SILENT, OUT OF RESPECT FOR WHAT HAPPENED HERE IN THE YEAR 1836. THE ALAMO -- SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO -- WAS A SPANISH CATHOLIC MISSION THAT BECAME A FORTRESS -- AND A FORTRESS THAT BECAME A SHRINE. THE STORY.

TAPE: CUT EIGHT -- MUSIC - SNEAK IN UNDER

"OF THE ALAMO IS ALSO PART OF THE STORY OF SAN ANTONIO, AND IT DESERVES TELLING HERE.

TAPE: UP FILL -- ESTABLISH THROUGH TRUMPET PHRASES - 20 SEC - AND HOLD UNDER

NARR: IT WAS NOVEMBER, 1835, AND TEXAS WAS SEEKING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM MEXICO -- BUT EVEN MORE SO, FROM THE DICTATORSHIP AND INTOLERABLE DECREES OF GENERAL ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA, MEXICO'S PRESIDENT. SANTA ANNA SENT HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, GENERAL MARTIN PERFECTO DE COS, TO SAN ANTONIO TO LIQUIDIATE THE REBELLIOUS TEXANS. IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, IN THE STREETS OF SAN ANTONIO, GENERAL COS WAS DEFEATED.

NARR: (CONT) THREE MONTHS LATER THE INFURIATED GENERAL SANTA ANNA ARRIVED TO TAKE HIS REVENGE. HE BROUGHT WITH HIM ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED MOUNTED SOLDIERS, THE BEST OF HIS ARMY. IT WAS SUNRISE, ON FEBRUARY 23, 1836, AND SANTA ANNA STOPPED HIS MEN A KILOMETER AWAY FROM THE ALAMO. THEIR POLISHED LANCES GLEAMED LIKE A SECOND SUN IN THE CLEAR, CRISP AIR.

INSIDE THE FORTRESS OF THE ALAMO, COLONEL WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS AND 155 OTHER MEN WAITED. AMONG THEM WERE THE FRONTIERSMAN, DAVY CROCKET AND COLONEL JIM BOWIE, WHO WAS DESPERATELY ILL WITH TUBERCULOSIS AND PNEUMONIA. SANTA ANNA SENT COLONEL TRAVIS A SURRENDER ULTIMATUM, AND TRAVIS REPLIED WITH A SINGLE CANNON SHOT INTO THE MEXICAN TROOPS. AND NOW THE BATTLE WAS ON.

TRAVIS SENT FOR REINFORCEMENTS, BUT ONLY THIRTY-TWO MEN AND BOYS FROM THE NEARBY COMMUNITY OF GONZALES GOT THROUGH THE MEXICAN LINES TO JOIN THE ALAMO DEFENDERS, AND NOW THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 188 OF THEM INSIDE THE WALLS OF THE MISSION. THEY WERE ALL COMMITTED TO DEATH, AND COLONEL TRAVIS KNEW IT. HE DESCRIBED THE HOPELESSNESS OF THEIR SITUATION, AND THEN DREW HIS SABRE AND MARKED A LINE IN THE DIRT FLOOR. "THOSE PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR LIVES IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE," HE SAID, "COME OVER THIS LINE TO ME." EVERY MAN CROSSED THE LINE. JIM BOWIE, WHO WAS TOO ILL EVEN TO WALK, ASKED THAT HIS COT BE CARRIED ACROSS THE LINE.

NARR: (CONT) SANTA ANNA'S MEXICAN TROOPS CAME IN FROM THE NORTH, EAST, SOUTH AND WEST -- AND ULTIMATELY THERE WOULD BE FIVE THOUSAND OF THEM AGAINST THE DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO, FOR WHOM THERE WAS NO HELP LEFT. WITH THEM WERE ABOUT TWELVE WIVES AND CHILDREN.

FOR TWELVE DAYS THE MEXICANS ATTACKED, TAKING TREMENDOUS LOSSES, AND UNABLE TO PENETRATE THE FORTRESS OF THE ALAMO. BUT THE MEN INSIDE WERE RUNNING OUT OF AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES. ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 5, 1836, THE MEXICAN ATTACKS SUDDENLY STOPPED. THERE WAS SILENCE. GENERAL SANTA ANNA HAD ALLOWED THE WEARY TEXANS A LAST SLEEP -- BUT ONLY TO ENSURE THEIR FATIGUE AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, WHEN HE PLANNED TO MAKE HIS FINAL ASSAULT.

<u>TAPE: UP FULL FOR EMPHASIS ESTABLISHMENT AND HOLD UNDER</u>

NARR: AND THEN THE GROGGY DEFENDERS AWAKENED TO THE MEXICAN BUGLES SOUNDING THE DREADED "DEGUELLO" -- MEANING THERE WOULD BE NO MERCY FOR THE MEN IN THE ALAMO. FROM EVERY SIDE CAME THE MEXICAN ATTACK. COLONEL WILLIAM TRAVIS FELL DEAD WITH A SINGLE SHOT THROUGH HIS FOREHEAD. DAVY CROCKETT, OUT OF AMMUNITION, USED HIS RIFLE AS A CLUB AS THE MEXICAN TROOPS CAME OVER THE BATTERED NORTH WALL OF THE FORTRESS AND ENTERED THE CHAPEL. BUT HE, TOO, WAS KILLED. COLONEL JIM BOWIE, HIS TWO REVOLVERS EMPTY, HIS FAMOUS KNIFE BLOODIED, WAS KILLED AS HE FOUGHT, UNABLE TO RISE FROM HIS COT.

NARR: (CONT) NOW THE THIRTEEN-DAY SEIGE. WAS OVER. ALL OF THE DEFENDERS -- 188 OF THEM -- WERE DEAD. GENERAL SANTA ANNA ORDERED THEIR BODIES BURNED IN THE ALAMO. THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF THE DEFENDERS WERE SPARED.

THE MEN CROSSING COLONEL TRAVIS' LINE HAD MADE THE CHOICE BETWEEN LIFE AND IMMORTALITY. BY THEIR STAND AT THE ALAMO THEY SUCCEEDED IN MAKING SANTA ANNA'S VICTORY MORE COSTLY. THEY HELD UP HIS ADVANCE FOR TWO WEEKS, BADLY MAULING HIS ARMY, AND GAINING THE PRECIOUS TIME NEEDED BY THIER FELLOW TEXANS TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT AND RAISE FORCES TO OPPOSE THE DICTATOR. BECAUSE OF THE ALAMO, GENERAL SAM HOUSTON WAS ABLE TO GALVANIZE TEXAS INTO RESISTANCE. ON APRIL 21, FORTY-SIX DAYS AFTER THE FALL OF THE ALAMO, HE LED ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED TEXANS AND AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS IN A FURIOUS ATTACK ON SANTA ANNA'S TROOPS AT SAN JACINTO, TEXAS. WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE MEXICAN ARMY WAS ROUTED. GENERAL SANTA ANNA WAS CAPTURED. TEXAS WAS FREE; A NEW REPUBLIC WAS BORN.

TODAY THE ALAMO STILL STANDS IN DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO, A SHRINE TO THE 188 MEN WHO DIED THERE. THE BUILDING IS IN GOOD REPAIR AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY DAY. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ENTER THE ALAMO, AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE VISIT IT EACH YEAR. IT'S THE STORY OF SAN ANTONIO, AND THE STORY OF TEXAS. THE ALAMO IS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE PLACES TO SEE ON A SLOW WALK THROUGH SAN ANTONIO.

TAPE: MUSIC UP FULL - FADE AS DESIRED - 7:00

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO "A SLOW TALK THROUGH SAN ANTONIO, ONE OF A SERIES OF VOICE OF AMERICA PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN CITIES. THIS PROGRAM WAS WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY WAYNE HYDE. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----------. THIS IS ---------- SPEAKING.

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RK/RTD